



# MEC Alert

## Hawaiian Airlines Master Executive Council

March 20, 2022



In-Flight and Hawaiian Airlines will be hosting two Bone Marrow Donor drives for our HNL Flight Attendants, Hayley and Shawn "Kalae" Borges' 5-month-old daughter, Seeley John Borges. You may have already seen the postings or heard from others about it. The first Bone Marrow Registry drive will be on **Thursday, March 24, 2022, from 0900-1300 HST** in Honolulu's Crew Resource Office (Crew Lounge). The second drive will be held on **Saturday, March 26, 2022, from 1000-1400 HST** at the LunchBox in Koapaka. Participants must be between the ages of 18-40 years old. Participants can pre-register online either at the event or ahead of time, which will take approximately 5-10 minutes. The testing process is a simple swabbing of the mouth to both cheeks.

Please click and read through [What is a Donor Drive](#) and [What to Know Before Joining](#). As 70% of patients don't have a fully matched donor in their family, these registries save lives. This week, Seeley received a half marrow transplant from her mother, Hayley, in Seattle. We acquired the following information from Hayley and Kalae Borges and the Company.

Seeley John has just turned five months old and is a few days away from receiving a lifesaving bone marrow transplant. Seeley John was diagnosed at just three weeks old with AML, or acute myeloid leukemia, a rare and aggressive form of cancer. As the Borges began their fight, they quickly realized that although there is treatment and hope for a cure, finding a donor with their combination of ethnicities would be a significant challenge they would have to face. Some children have been searching for their matches for years while continually undergoing Chemotherapy and other treatments to keep their cancer at bay while waiting for a miracle.

Their oncologist said, "There will be many times in this fight where you feel completely hopeless. If you want to do something, encourage people to join the Bone Marrow Registry and donate blood. Not only could you save Seeley's life, but so many others." They began their donor search as Seeley started her first round of Chemotherapy. Kalae and Hayley have done all they can to be the most prominent and vocal advocates they could by getting everyone they know to register in the Bone Marrow Registry. Now, as Seeley begins her fourth round of Chemotherapy with the help of their family and friends, they were able to get over 2000 new registrations.

They could not have been more proud and thankful for their fantastic community. Unfortunately, even with 2000 new registrations, Seeley could not find a good match. Because of the aggressive nature of Seeley's diagnosis, and her very young age, they had no choice but to proceed with a half match. Seeley's mother, Hayley, was the donor. Not so long ago, half-match transplants were little more than a medical experiment.

Thankfully, the advancements in medicine and those who had fought this fight before them and participated in clinical trials have drastically improved half-match transplants' ability and success rate. Unfortunately, for many, it is not. The best success comes from a full match. The fact that the Borges could gather more than 2000 additional people to join the registry and still couldn't find a match should speak volumes to what can be accomplished. You could save someone's life by registering. Other babies, kids, and families are still waiting to hear if they've got a match every day. With a simple cheek swab, you could be the miracle they need.

In Unity,

Joni, Scott and Chasity

[AFA-CWA Mutual Respect Policy](#)